

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE J

### Low Income Discounts for Water & Sewer Services

There is no economic benefit or reason to support the Low Income Discount Measure except that it is the right thing to do. We have in our community people that need financial assistance.

Unfortunately, our utility bills have increased and are a burden on low-income residents. The City currently has in place a Low-Income Discount program, which provides relief to approximately 2000 eligible Lodi households. Recent California legislation requires voters to affirm the discount program in order for cities to continue it. A "yes" vote on this ballot measure maintains the program without increasing current water or sewer rates; the discount is presently built into rates. If this ballot measure fails the discount will be discontinued.

Voting in favor of Measure "J" gives Lodians an opportunity to provide beneficial assistance for the less fortunate and needy in Lodi. The cost to most citizen ratepayers is measured in a few cents per day, less than one-dollar per month for a three-bedroom, two-bath home. However, the benefit to those who receive this discount may be as much as ten-dollars a month.

For an individual struggling to survive on Social Security it can be the difference between a meal and medicine or an unbearably hot July day/night and some degree of relief. To qualify for the program, a couple must make less than \$22,000 annually and must re-qualify every three-years, so the discount is not a lifetime benefit.

Most of us grumble about our utility bill, but pay it and at the end of the day we manage to get by. But to some, paying their utility bill requires great sacrifice or worse yet, going without basic necessities. Vote yes on Measure "J" because it is the right thing to do.

Submitted by:

/s/ Susan Hitchcock, Mayor, City of Lodi  
/s/ Larry D. Hansen, Lodi City Council  
/s/ Mark D. Price, Senior Pastor,  
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/s/ JoAnne Mounce, Lodi City Council